

AGENDA



Recommendation for Council Action

Austin City Council	Item ID	56399	Agenda Number	13.
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Meeting Date:	4/21/2016	Department:	Austin Fire Department
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Subject

Authorize execution of an interlocal agreement with the University of North Texas for collaborative research on use of robotics in emergency response.

Amount and Source of Funding

Fiscal Note

Purchasing Language:	
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Prior Council Action:	
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For More Information:	Rhoda Mae Kerr, Fire Chief; 512-974-0130 and Richard Davis, Assistant Chief; 512-974-0133
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Council Committee, Boards and Commission Action:	
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MBE / WBE:	
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Related Items:	
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Additional Backup Information

The purpose of this agreement is to institute a framework of cooperation to investigate the practicality of utilizing state-of-the-art robotic technologies for emergency response, including Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to provide on-demand communication capabilities when disaster strikes. Both parties will provide mutual support and assistance in evaluating the benefits of these technologies. These applications could generate opportunities for enhancing multi-agency coordination. The parties understand that the resources available from the City under this agreement are limited to the Austin Fire Department.

Previously, on August 7, 2014, Austin City council approved item 29 on the council agenda authorizing negotiation and execution of an interlocal agreement between the City and Texas A & M University to investigate utilizing UAVs and other robotics during emergency response. The City Council authorized the AFD to collaborate with Texas A&M for a 4-year-study on the practicality of using UAVs.